

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A food and drink managing device with a circulation type-carrying path for providing containers carrying foods and drinks to customers by an endless circulating carrying path, comprising:

an identification information reading means for reading identification information on containers, adapted to identify individual containers, and provided near said circulating carrying path,

at least one sign part circulating and moving as linked with said circulating carrying path,

a pass-through detection means provided near said circulating carrying path to detect passing through of said sign parts,

a registering means connected to said identification information reading means and said pass-through detection means, which divides an interval between passing sign parts as one zone, and registers the identification information of the containers read by said identification information reading means, as foods and drinks are supplied, by coordinating it with a zone in which the containers exist, and

a container throwing-in prohibited area with a given length from a position of the identification information reading means towards an upper side of said circulating carrying path.

15. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said container throwing-in prohibited area comprises a throwing-in protecting wall going along said circulating carrying path.

16. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said container throwing-in prohibited area comprises a tunnel-shaped-cover that covers the containers.

17. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said identification information reading means is positioned inside said tunnel-shaped-cover, and further comprising an electromagnet shield on said tunnel-shaped-cover.

18. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed claim 14, wherein each of said at least one sign parts is positioned in an almost equal interval on said circulating carrying path.

19. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed claim 15, wherein each of said at least one sign parts is positioned in an almost equal interval on said circulating carrying path.

20. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed claim 16, wherein each of said at least one sign parts is positioned in an almost equal interval on said circulating carrying path.

21. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed claim 17, wherein each of said at least one sign parts is positioned in an almost equal interval on said circulating carrying path.

22. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said at least one sign part has sign identification information readable by said identification information reading means, and said identification information reading means is combined with said pass-through detection means.

23. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said at least one sign part has sign identification information readable by said identification information reading means, and said identification information reading means is combined with said pass-through detection means.

24. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said at least one sign part has sign identification information readable by said identification information reading means, and said identification information reading means is combined with said pass-through detection means.

25. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said at least one sign part has sign identification information readable by said identification information reading means, and said identification information reading means is combined with said pass-through detection means.

26. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said registering means, when detecting new identification information from said identification information reading means, registers the identification information with related time information in that moment.

27. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said registering means, when detecting new identification information from said identification information reading means, registers the identification information with related time information in that moment.

28. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said registering means, when detecting new identification information from said identification information reading means, registers the identification information with related time information in that moment.

29. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said registering means, when detecting new identification

information from said identification information reading means, registers the identification information with related time information in that moment.

30. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said registering means, when said at least one sign part in a lower side of said zone passes and the identification information registered as supplied food and drink by coordinating said information with the zone is not be detected, changes the record of identification information to one of removed food and drink, and registers time information of said registering change by coordinating it with identification information, and further, holds said registration in a specified time.

31. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said registering means, when said at least one sign part in a lower side of said zone passes and the identification information registered as supplied food and drink by coordinating said information with the zone is not be detected, changes the record of identification information to one of removed food and drink, and registers time information of said registering change by coordinating it with identification information, and further, holds said registration in a specified time.

32. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said registering means, when said at least one sign part in a lower side of said zone passes and the identification information registered as supplied food and drink by coordinating said information with the zone is not be detected, changes the record of identification information to one of removed food and drink, and registers time information of said registering change by coordinating it with identification information, and further, holds said registration in a specified time.

33. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said registering means, when said at least one sign part in a lower side of said zone passes and the identification information registered as supplied food and

drink by coordinating said information with the zone is not be detected, changes the record of identification information to one of removed food and drink, and registers time information of said registering change by coordinating it with identification information, and further, holds said registration in a specified time.

34. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 30, wherein said registering means changes said specified retention time for said registration of removed food and drink.

35. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said identification information reading means reads the identification information given on said container without contacting the container.

36. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said identification information reading means reads the identification information given on said container without contacting the container.

37. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said identification information reading means reads the identification information given on said container without contacting the container.

38. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said identification information reading means reads the identification information given on said container without contacting the container.

39. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 35, wherein the identification information is provided to said container via an identification tag, which sends identification as stored identification information by wireless means to a container.

40. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said identification information identifies price information of foods and drinks.

41. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said identification information identifies price information of foods and drinks.

42. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said identification information identifies price information of foods and drinks.

43. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said identification information identifies price information of foods and drinks.

44. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 14, wherein said identification information reading means is provided on a lower part, near a throwing-in area, of the circulating carrying path.

45. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 15, wherein said identification information reading means is provided on a lower part, near a throwing-in area, of the circulating carrying path.

46. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 16, wherein said identification information reading means is provided on a lower part, near a throwing-in area, of the circulating carrying path.

47. (New) The food and drink managing device with a circulation type carrying path as claimed in claim 17, wherein said identification information reading means is provided on a lower part, near a throwing-in area, of the circulating carrying path.